

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 13, 2022
Preston Town Hall - Lower Level**

1. Call to Order

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Members

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier

Ken Zachem

Jerry Grabarek arrived at 7:20 P.M.

Also Present

Kimberly Lang, Recorder

Sean Nugent - PRA and Board of Education

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting Minutes dated December 16, 2021

Ken Zachem motioned to approve the December 16, 2021 Minutes as presented. Sandra Allyn-Gauthier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Correspondence

- TVCCA donation request - to be discuss when compiling the budget
- The town was awarded a DUI Grant for 19,517.99 to be spent between Jan. 15, 2022 and Sept. 10, 2022. It was noted that the new Trooper Fisher was instrumental in securing the grant.
- Karen Parkinson, President of the Tri-Town Trails, is looking for a mid-block crosswalk on Route 117. The state only funds the rapid flashing crosswalks at certain places. But she has found a grant to cover the cost and a letter of support has been written for the grant application.
- Letter to all the Boards and Commissions reminding them of Covid safety protocols that are to be followed.

5. Reports - None shared

6. Appointments and /or Resignations

1. Re-Appointment: IWWC - Paul Andruskiewicz (Term 01/01/2022 - 12/31/2028)

Paul Andruskiewicz was on the IWWC and it's been requested that he be re-appointed. He is well versed in the workings and activities of the Committee. He would serve a term from Jan. 1, 2022 to Dec. 31, 2028.

Ken Zachem motioned to appoint Paul Andruskiewicz to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Committee for the term of Jan. 1, 2022 to Dec. 31, 2028. Sandra Allyn-Gauthier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. New Business

1. PRA Update

Sean Nugent reported that work will begin in February hoping to address 5 areas that are considered Quick Hits. Those jobs are: extra buildings around the sewer pump station will be abetted; small area "the thumb" needs remediation to be completed; Parcel 2 has some remediation to be completed; the area in front of the Pathways Building has significant remediation; and finally the Pathway Building demolished and abetted. This should take about 6-8 weeks to complete.

The PRA is working with the town to obtain the proper permits to move forward with work on the site. They've also had working sessions with the Tribe and Manafort. There is a need to expand the remediation area in the southern cove, that will allow enough area to consolidate and create clean fill and then cap it. The already remediated roadways will be brought up to their original levels with our own clean fill at a significant savings. And it is hoped that permits can be presented to the PZC at their February meeting so work can proceed in March.

There have been new signs posted at the site per new regulations. Also there has been an issue with large trucks parking on the property and they have been told to move off.

Sean Nugent also reported that Eversource is gearing up for a large project to replace poles along Route 12 and 2A and is looking for a lay down area for supplies and equipment. They'd like to use part of the property at the Riverwalk site. It's an 8-15 month project. They have been granted a Temporary License Agreement for Parcel 4. They will pay \$7500 a month for the first 8 months and then \$6000 a month for the remainder of the time they use the property. There will be a 60 day notice of evacuation of the site if the clean up moves faster than expected.

A final note on the Hurricane Ida erosion damage of \$290,000. FEMA will cover 75% of the cost, however, CERMA funds can not be used to cover the remaining 25%. The money that is collected from Eversource will be set aside and used to cover that if no other funds can be found.

2. Formation of a Building Committee - Roy Seitsinger

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier referred to the letter sent by Superintendent of Schools Roy Seitsinger requesting the formation of a Building Committee to identify future building needs of the town, schools, and community in hopes of developing a long-term comprehensive plan. A brief history of past Committees was shared and it was decided that see what is discussed at the Board of Finance meeting next before any decisions are made.

3. Budget Preparation 2022-2023

It was shared that all departments have been given a worksheet to identify needs and wants for their particular department. They have been asked to reach out to vendors to obtain information on updated costs for the coming year and to seek competitive vendors where possible. They are to provide a narrative to explain any significant changes in their budget and are to try not to exceed a 5% increase. Any significant changes they will need to attend a Budget Workshop to explain and support changes they seek. At this point the Town's budget is on track to be presented to the Board of Finance the first week in April.

4. Capital Planning - Grant Research

It was reported that work continues to find DOT grants and available funds to cover Capital Projects. There are grants available to cover road work costs, but it needs to be decided which bridges are to be repaired and which are to be replaced. There is a DOT grant to replace the Senior Van.

The USDA has several programs for rural towns. They have direct loans at 2.5% interest for facility use or construction; Emergency Rural Health Care for public safety use; and grants to cover equipment. Some of the cost could be funded by ARPA as well.

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier stressed that it's important to look at various avenues to reduce the cost of capital projects.

5. Slater Museum - John Denison Crocker Oil Painting Loan Agreement

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that the Slater Museum has requested to renew their loan agreement with the town to continue displaying the John Denison Crocker Oil Painting. As part of the agreement they would continue to display the painting in the museum and to insure it. The loan agreement would be for another 10 years beginning Dec. 1, 2021 to Dec. 1, 2031.

Jerry Grabarek motion to allow Sandra Allyn-Gauthier to sign the Loan Agreement on behalf of the town with Slater Museum to continue displaying the John Denison Crocker oil painting

from Dec. 1, 2021 to Dec. 1, 2031. Ken Zachem seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Old Business - None

9. Tax Refund

1. Tax Refund: CCAP Auto Lease Ltd. - Ref: 2020-03-0050783
2. Tax Refund: Nissan Infiniti LT LLC - Ref: 2020-03-0053520
3. Tax Refund: VW Credit Leasing Ltd - Ref: 2020-03-0055107
4. Tax Refund: Toyota Lease Trust - Ref: 2020-03-0054988
5. Tax Refund: Toyota Lease Trust - Ref: 2020-03-0054987
6. Tax Refund: Toyota Lease Trust - Ref: 2020-03-0054986

Ken Zachem motioned to approve the Tax Refunds:

- Tax Refund: CCAP Auto Lease Ltd. - Ref: 2020-03-0050783 for \$845.92
- Tax Refund: Nissan Infiniti LT LLC - Ref: 2020-03-0053520 for \$417.25
- Tax Refund: VW Credit Leasing Ltd - Ref: 2020-03-0055107 for \$434.81
- Tax Refund: Toyota Lease Trust - Ref: 2020-03-0054988 for \$203.93
- Tax Refund: Toyota Lease Trust - Ref: 2020-03-0054987 for \$147.76
- Tax Refund: Toyota Lease Trust - Ref: 2020-03-0054986 for \$570.05

Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

10. Public Comment - There was none.

11. Adjournment

Ken Zachem motioned to adjourn at 7:44 P.M.. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Lang

Kimberly Lang
Recorder

